

Appl. No. 09/814.151
Amdt. dated Dec. 13, 2003
Reply to Office action of 10/29/2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With regard to examiners rejection of Claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yu (5,939,395), Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to specifically recite the features of the claimed method not taught by Yu.

With regard to the examiner's rejection of Claims 24-27 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Yu in view of Kelleher (6,051,571), Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to specifically recite the features of the claimed method not taught by Yu.

With regard to the examiner's rejection of Claims 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Yu in view of McLachlan (4,573,761), Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to specifically recite the features of the claimed process not taught by Yu.

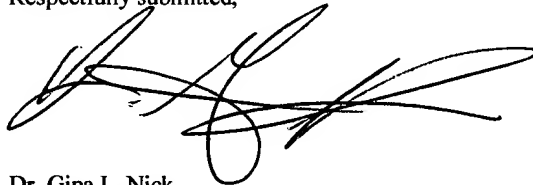
With regard to the examiner's rejection of Claims 21-29 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claims 21, 22, 28 and 29 have been amended to clarify the claimed features of the invention.

It is the applicant's position that the presented claims clearly define the essence of the invention and do place the claims in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

I have tried unsuccessfully to reach the examiner by telephone regarding this application and have left a message requesting a return call. If the examiner has any questions concerning this case, please direct any inquiries to Dr. Gina L. Nick at 1-866-587-4622 X702.

Applicant requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina L. Nick', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Gina L. Nick